

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06876 072245Z

17

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SAJ-01 /115 W
----- 046712

R 072152Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6025

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 6876

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CO, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET FINANCING FOR HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT ANNOUNCED

1. THE BOGOTA PRESS ON SUNDAY, JULY 4, CARRIED A COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DAM AND HYDROELECTRIC COMPLEX AT URRÁ IN THE ALTO SINU REGION OF COLOMBIA. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS RELEASE, THE AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH WILL BE FORMALLY SIGNED WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, WAS REACHED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW, HUMBERTO MUNOZ. THE COST OF THE PROJECT, BASED ON 1975 ESTIMATES, WILL BE \$400 MILLION (\$150 MILLION FOR TURBINE GENERATORS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AND \$250 MILLION FOR THE CIVIL WORKS). THE PRESS ACCOUNT STATES THAT THE \$150 MILLION EQUIPMENT PACKAGE WILL BE SUPPLIED \$100 MILLION FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND \$50 MILLION FROM WESTINGHOUSE IN THE UNITED STATES. THE SOVIETS REPORTEDLY WILL FINANCE \$40 MILLION OF CIVIL WORKS AND WESTINGHOUSE, \$30 MILLION OF THE SAME.

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 06876 072245Z

2. THE WESTINGHOUSE REPRESENTATIVE IN COLOMBIA, LEO SOSCHIN INFORMED THE EMBASSY SEVERAL DAYS AGO THAT THE COMMERCIAL ATTACHE OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN BOGOTA HAD CALLED HIM AND STATED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE CERTAIN TO RECEIVE THE CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE URRA DAM. ACCORDING TO SOSCHIN, THE SOVIET OFFICIAL INDICATED THEY WOULD LIKE WESTINGHOUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT BY SUPPLYING THE SUBSTATIONS AND CONTROL SYSTEM FOR THE GENERATORS. SOSCHIN SAID HE REPORTED THIS INFORMATION TO WESTINGHOUSE, PITTSBURGH. SUPPOSEDLY WESTINGHOUSE OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON HAVE OR WILL SHORTLY RAISE THE POSSIBILITY OF WESTINGHOUSE PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

3. ALTHOUGH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT MAKES NO MENTION OF IT, SOSCHIN TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT THE AWARDED OF A CONSTRUCTION/EQUIPMENT CONTRACT WITHOUT PUBLIC TENDER FOR BIDS WOULD REQUIRE AN ACT OF CONGRESS.

4. EMBASSY WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED ON DEVELOPMENTS.
DREXLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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